

Regional Development News & Notes



April 2003

Edited by Glenn Coppelman, Regional Development Coordinator

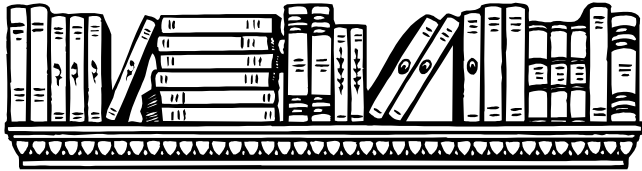


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R.D. News & Notes Now Archived on OSP's Web Site

For those of you who just can't get enough of this newsletter, OSP is now archiving past issues on its Web site. They can be found (in .pdf format) on the CDBG section of the site. The link below will get you right to the archive page:

www.state.nh.us/osp/cdbg/RDNewsnotePg.htm



MSCC...Increasing DoD Business for NH Manufacturers

Offshore parts sourcing by the Department of Defense (DoD) has been increasing due to an erosion of manufacturing capacity in this area. The *Manufacturing Supply Chain Consortium (MSCC)* is hoping to mitigate this trend by enhancing seamless collaboration between all members of manufacturing supply chains with connections to any of the six New England states. MSCC is a non-profit initiative of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers in this region. For more information contact: Steve Levesque
New Hampshire MEP
603-226-3200

Economic Development and Arts, Culture & Entertainment

(Excerpted from Northeastern Economic Developers Assn.)

Economic development practitioners and policy makers are increasingly focusing on arts, culture and entertainment (AC&E) as critical components of their local and regional strategies. While AC&E have long been central to tourism and downtown development initiatives, practitioners are starting to take a broader view of how these creative sectors contribute to economic development. AC&E destinations attract local residents and visitors, and generate spending to support significant economic activity. However, the arts and culture economy is also an important potential driver to regional economic development through four impacts:

- An employer and source of job and business growth.
- A contributor to knowledge creation and innovation in other sectors.
- A source of specialized human capital and labor force skill development.
- As major amenities that attract new residents, employees and firms to an area.

For further reading on this subject, check out the following:

- *The Rise of the Creative Class* by Richard Florida. Published by Basic Books, ©2002.
- *The Creative Economy Initiative: An Economic Development Strategy For New England* by Sue Asci, Beate Becker and Beth Siegel (NEDA White Paper can be found at www.nedaonline.org).

CDBG “101”



#11 in a series: Environmental Review: Process Overview (see CDBG Implementation Guide for more information)

Recipients of CDBG funds are responsible for ensuring these funds are used in a manner that protects and preserves environmental integrity. Federal law mandates a review of the potential impacts that a project might have on the environment, and prescribes the nature of the review process and documentation required. This review must be completed by the grantee, and cleared by the Office of State Planning (OSP), before any project funds, except for administrative costs, professional services and planning can be *obligated* or *expended*.

In order to fully comply with all environmental review responsibilities, the grantee must meet the requirements of:

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and,
- other specific environmental legislation.

Continued ►

Did You Know?

(things to ponder, or not, when solving the economic development needs of NH)



Emily Dickinson wrote more than 900 poems, of which only four were published in her lifetime.

(Lesson: Don't let lack of recognition stop you from getting things done!)

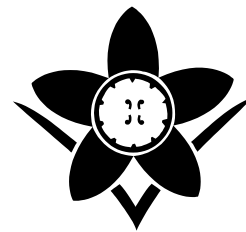


NEPA governs the kind of review required, based on the nature of project activities, and the specific steps that must be conducted in performing the review. This review consists of six major parts:

1. Creation (and maintenance) of an environmental review file;
2. determination of the scope and nature of review required, based on characteristics of project activities and, if necessary,
3. conduct of the review;
4. public notice, comment and response;
5. submission of findings and certifications to OSP; and,
6. subsequent OSP release of funds.

***Other areas that may require grantee review involvement include: Historic preservation, flood plain management, coastal zone management, wetlands protection, etc.*

An environmental release will be issued by OSP when the appropriate procedures have been followed. For projects requiring more intensive reviews, and coordination with multiple State and/or Federal agencies, it may take 45 to 60 days to go from initial public comment to final OSP clearance. Therefore, grantees are encouraged to begin environmental reviews as soon as authorized to do so by OSP.



2003 CDBG Allocation

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has notified OSP of the 2003 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation. It is anticipated that New Hampshire's portion will be \$10,519,000 of which \$4,501,715 is expected to be available for economic development grants.

Please remember that applications for CDBG economic development funds are accepted year round, and are distributed to qualifying projects on a first come, first served basis.